

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 231540Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5599

UNCLAS ATHENS 6934

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OVER WEEKEND

1. SUMMARY. GEORGE MAVROS, DEPUTY PM AND FOREIGN MINISTER, WAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF CENTER UNION SEPTEMBER 20. CARAMANLIS REPORTEDLY IS MAKING FINAL PREPARATIONS BEFORE LAUNCHING HIS "NEW DEMOCRATIC" FRONT, WHILE SEVERAL LEFTIST PARTIES IN BETWEEN SQUABBLING OVER UNITY EFFORTS HAVE REGISTERED DISSATISFACTION AT PROSPECT OF EARLY ELECTIONS. GAZETTING OF NEW ELECTORAL LAW, SPECIAL LEGISLATION ON POLITICAL PARTIES AND LEGALIZATION OF KKE ARE EXPECTED IMMINENTLY. END SUMMARY

2. GEORGE MAVROS REIGNED TRIUMPHANT OVER CENTER UNION'S POLITICAL CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 20 WHEN 84 FORMER DEPUTIES ELECTED HIM PARTY CHAIRMAN. CENTER UNION APOSTATES AND THOSE WHO CONVERSED WITH MILITARY REGIME LEADERS (SYNOMILITAI") WERE EXCLUDED FROM CONVENTION. ANTICIPATED OPPOSITION TO MAVROS FROM LIBERAL JOHN ZIGDIS FAILED TO MATERIALIZE WHEN LATTER REPORTEDLY PERFUNCTORILY COMPLAINED ABOUT PRECIPITATE ACTION AND THEN JOINED IN AVALANCHE FOR MAVROS. THREE-HOUR MEETING PRODUCED NO OTHER VISIBLE RESULT EXCEPT COMMITMENT TO MEET AGAIN IN EARLY OCTOBER AFTER MAVROS RETURNS. NEXT MEETING WILL TAKE UP ORGANIZATION OF STEERING AND ADMINISTRATIVE/PROCEDUREL COMMITTEES.

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DESPITE STEADY DRUMBEAT FOR CARAMANLIS SUPPORTERS BUOYED BY SUCCESS OF FIRST POLITICAL CONVENTION IN OVER SEVEN

YEARS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN MAKING GOOD STANDING IN  
UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

3. MEANWHILE MYSTERY CONTINUES TO ENSHROUD POLITICAL  
INTENTIONS OF PREMIER. CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED  
REPORTS THAT CARAMANLIS WOULD LAUNCH FRONT LABELLED "NEW DECOMCRACY"  
WHICH VRADYNI ANTICIPATED WOULD ENCOMPASS BROAD SWEEP OF  
NATIONAL POLITICAL PROCLIVITIES. NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALSO PREDICTED  
CABINET WOULD UNDERGO RESHUFFLE TO ENABLE MINISTERS TO  
CAMPAIGN WITH EXCEPTIONS OF SOLON GHIKAS AND X. ZOLOTAS WHO  
DO NOT INTEND TO RUN. ACCORDING TO SPECULATION RESHUFFLE COULD  
GIVE BIRTH TO CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WITH CARAMANLIS AND MAVROS  
REMAINING UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT. GREECE'S LAST PREMIER  
BEFORE 1967 COUP, P. KANELLOPOULOS, MADE NEWS OVER WEEKEND BY  
MEETING SEPARATELY WITH MAVROS AND CARAMANLIS TO EXCHANGE  
POLITICAL VIEWS. SPECULATION SURFACED IMMEDIATELY THAT  
KANELLOPOULOS WOULD SUPPORT CARAMANLIS IN EXCHANGE FOR ONE  
OF THE TWELVE DEPUTY-AT-LARGE SEATS, OR THAT KANELLOPOULOS  
WOULD JOIN RANKS WITH MAVROS SINCE CARAMANLIS' CONTROL OF  
ERE LEGACY LEFT NO PLACE FOR KANELLOPOULOS

4. BELEAGUERED LEFT IS PROVING ITS OWN WORST ENEMY WITH  
CONTINUED STRIFE AMONG THE SEVERAL FACTIONS FRUSTRATING  
POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, LEADER OF  
PAN-HELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT, HAS REJECTED PUBLICLY EARLY  
ELECTIONS ON GROUNDS ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS CANNOT BE RUSHED  
AND REPORTEDLY ALSO BECAUSE HIS SUPPORT FOR YOUTH AND  
STUDENTS REMAINS SO AMORPHOUS THAT HE FEARS DISASTER AT  
THE POLLS. ILIAS ILIOU OF EDA ADMITTED THAT HIS UNIFICATION  
EFFORTS WITH KKE'S FAILED WHEN FLORAKIS, LEADER OF KKE  
(EXTERIOR), DECLARED HIS PARTY WOULD NOT BECOME PART OF EDA.  
PRESS REPORTED FLORAKIS PROPOSED AN UNDERSTANDING FOR CONSULTATION  
ON JOINT ACTION; ILIOU NOTED TALKS FOR UNITY OF ACTION CONTINUE.  
KKE (INTERIOR) LED BY H. DRACOPOULOS AND A. BRILLAKIS HAS  
KEPT SILENT. FURTHER FRACTIONALIZATION OF LEFT OCCURRED  
SEPT 21 WHEN VENERABLE EX-EDA DEPUTY S. ILIOPOULOS PROCLAIMED  
NEW LEFT-WING PARTY TO BE APPROPRIATELY NAMED "NEW LEFT."  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 23 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, GR, (MAVROS, GEORGE), (CARAMANLIS)  
**To:** STATE  
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